



MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Violet Varona-Lukens, Executive Officer
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
Los Angeles, California 90012

Chief Probation Officer

At its meeting held April 22, 2003, the Board took the following action:

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The following item was called up for consideration:

The Chief Probation Officer's recommendation to adopt resolution authorizing the Chief Probation Officer to apply for \$32,612,056 in Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act funding for Fiscal Year 2003-04 from the State Board of Corrections; and authorize the Chief Probation Officer to take the following related actions:

Finalize the County of Los Angeles Application and Comprehensive Multi-Agency Juvenile Justice Plan Modification and submit final documents to the State Board of Corrections by May 1, 2003, and make subsequent program modifications, if needed;

Accept \$32,612,056 in Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act funding for Fiscal Year 2003-04 from the State Board of Corrections, upon approval of the County of Los Angeles Application and Comprehensive Multi-Agency Juvenile Justice Plan Modification;

Execute any related contracts, amendments or extensions for the purpose of continuing programs implemented under the Comprehensive Multi-Agency Juvenile Justice Plan developed by the Los Angeles County Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council, and to negotiate a revised statement of work commensurate with the 8% contract funding reductions; and

Negotiate, execute, and/or extend current agreements with various government agencies to provide services consistent with the Plan and to negotiate a revised statement of work commensurate with the 8% funding reductions.

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Supervisor Molina made the following statement:

“The Probation Department seeks the authority to submit its plan to the State of California to utilize over \$32 million in funding for crime prevention programs in Fiscal Year 2003-04, under the Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act (JJCPA). This will be the third year of JJCPA programs.

“Crime prevention programs are an important part of protecting and investing in the community. I fully support the goals of the JJCPA and the attempt to give youth and their families the tools that can help them avoid the choice of crime.

“However, I am concerned that the Department is not taking full advantage of this opportunity to study and analyze the programs it is implementing, and to provide feedback to the Board of Supervisors about what programs are effective or ineffective. On March 20, 2001, the Board voted unanimously to allocate interest accrued from the JJCPA funding to pay for additional monitors to help evaluate programs.

“In addition, on March 12, 2002, the Board again unanimously approved the Chief Probation Officer’s plan to have Probation monitors help determine the merit, worth or significance of programs and create ongoing feedback to make mid-stream changes if necessary. As phrased by the Chief Probation Officer, “the intent [was] to be able to produce data on both an aggregate and a community level that responds to the basic question of what works or doesn’t in reducing delinquency, and why or why not.”

“As we get ready to approve funding that will now exceed \$100 million over three years for Los Angeles County alone, I am concerned that the Board has not been provided any coherent feedback about whether this enormous amount of money is being well spent. What are the goals, methodology and results of each program that is intervening in the lives of our children?

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“This information is especially critical given the State budget crisis. Indeed, under the current County budget proposal, Probation may be forced to cut direct services to probationers, close a probation camp and eliminate community-based contracts. The State’s budget, which could potentially cost the County approximately \$500 million, may force even more drastic cuts of direct services to our youth and their families. Thus, we must be more vigilant than ever in ensuring that our money is well spent and that each dollar is as effective as possible in bettering the lives of our constituents.”

Richard Shumsky, Chief Probation Officer, and Mechele Gordy, representing Parent Dependency Justice, addressed the Board.

After discussion, on motion of Supervisor Molina, seconded by Supervisor Antonovich, unanimously carried, the Chief Probation Officer’s attached recommendations were adopted as amended to instruct Chief Probation Officer to:

1. Present an oral and written report in public to the Board concerning the Department’s analysis and evaluation of programs funded with JJCPA money prior to spending any portion of next year’s allotment of JJCPA money, and no later than May 27, 2003, with the purpose of giving assurance to the Board that JJCPA money is being well spent, and that the Probation Department is analyzing and measuring the effectiveness of its programs; and
2. Offer concrete solutions if the Probation Department is unable to justify its expenditures and analyze programs in a helpful manner, which could include shifting money to programs that are shown to be more effective and/or reforming the monitoring and evaluation system by hiring independent experts to assist the Department.

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Attachment

Copies distributed:

Each Supervisor
Chief Administrative Officer
County Counsel